

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1           Claim 1. (currently amended) A software licence management  
2   system ~~(1, 60)~~ in which a licence to use a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ is  
3   represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~, the system comprising:  
4           a software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ for controlling use of a software  
5   product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a user device ~~(3, 64)~~; and  
6           a licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ for communicating with the  
7   software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ via a data communications network ~~(5,~~  
8   ~~63)~~;  
9           wherein the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ is adapted for  
10  - allowing said use of the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ substantially only  
11  during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~  
12  supplied to the software controller by the licence management server  
13  ~~(2, 61)~~,  
14  - enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current  
15  data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the licence management server, whereby  
16  the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another  
17  said software controller ~~(6b, 62b)~~, and  
18  - supplying one of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and the exchange  
19  token via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the licence management server to be  
20  exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to  
21  extend the licence for the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ beyond the use  
22  period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the  
23  licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an  
24  exchange token from another said software controller;  
25           and wherein the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ is adapted for  
26  - supplying via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the software controller ~~(6a,~~  
27  ~~62a)~~ a new data token, to replace the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and  
28  having a new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current  
29  data token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data  
30  token, received from the software controller, and  
31  - detecting if a said token received from the software controller for  
32  exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence  
33  management server ~~(2, 61)~~.

1           Claim 2. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1  
2   wherein the exchange token is a copy of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~,

3 the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ being adapted for detecting if  
4 the same data token is received twice for exchange.

1 Claim 3. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 2  
2 wherein the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ is adapted for:  
3 storing a token identifier corresponding to each data token ~~(7,~~  
4 ~~67)~~ received by the server ~~(2, 61)~~ for exchange; and  
5 comparing the token identifier for each received data token with  
6 the stored token identifiers to detect if the same data token ~~(7, 67)~~  
7 is received twice for exchange.

1 Claim 4. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 3  
2 wherein the token identifier for a data token ~~(7, 67)~~ comprises that  
3 data token.

1 Claim 5. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~  
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the system is adapted such that the use  
3 periods associated with alternate data tokens ~~(7, 67)~~ in a chain of  
4 data tokens received by the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ from the  
5 licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ do not overlap.

1 Claim 6. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~  
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 1 wherein:  
3 an exchange period is associated with each data token ~~(7, 67)~~;  
4 and  
5 the system is adapted such that a new data token, to replace a  
6 current data token, can be obtained by the software controller ~~(6a,~~  
7 ~~62a)~~ only during the exchange period associated with that current data  
8 token.

1 Claim 7. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 6  
2 wherein the use period and exchange period associated with a data token  
3 ~~(7, 67)~~ overlap.

1 Claim 8. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~  
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ is adapted  
3 for enabling user access to said exchange token by supplying the  
4 exchange token for storage by the user.

1           Claim 9. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~  
2 ~~claims claim 1 to 7~~ wherein the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ is  
3 adapted for enabling user access to said exchange token by storing the  
4 exchange token at a back-up storage location and supplying access data,  
5 for accessing the exchange token at said storage location, to the user.

1           Claim 10. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~  
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ is  
3 adapted for supplying a new data token ~~(7, 67)~~ in exchange for a  
4 received token only if the received token does not correspond to a  
5 token already exchanged.

1           Claim 11. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~  
2 ~~claims claim 1 to 9~~ wherein the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ is  
3 adapted for supplying a new data token ~~(7, 67)~~ in exchange for a  
4 received token before detecting if the received token corresponds to a  
5 token already exchanged.

1           Claim 12. (currently amended) A software licence management  
2 system ~~(50)~~ in which a licence to use a software product ~~(55)~~ is  
3 represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the system comprising:

4           a software controller ~~(52a)~~ for controlling use of a software  
5 product ~~(55)~~ at a user device ~~(53)~~; and

6           a licence management server ~~(51)~~ for communicating with the  
7 software controller ~~(52a)~~ via a data communications network ~~(54)~~;

8           wherein the software controller ~~(52a)~~ is adapted for

9           - allowing said use of the software product ~~(55)~~ substantially only  
10          during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(56)~~ supplied  
11          to the software controller by the licence management server ~~(51)~~,  
12          - receiving an exchange token ~~(57)~~ associated with said licence, and  
13          - supplying one of the current data token ~~(56)~~ and the exchange token  
14          ~~(57)~~ via the network ~~(54)~~ to the licence management server (51) to be  
15          exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the  
16          software product beyond the use period associated with a current data  
17          token ~~(56)~~ supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said  
18          exchange token ~~(57)~~ is received by the software controller in the  
19          absence of a current data token ~~(56)~~;

20          and wherein the licence management server ~~(51)~~ is adapted for

21 - storing the use period for each data token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the  
22 software controller ~~(52a)~~ under the licence, and  
23 - supplying via the network ~~(54)~~ to the software controller ~~(52a)~~ a new  
24 data token in exchange for a current data token ~~(56)~~, or said exchange  
25 token ~~(57)~~, received from the software controller, the new data token  
26 having a new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data  
27 token previously-supplied under the licence.

1 Claim 13. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~  
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 12 wherein a said data token ~~(7, 56, 67)~~ comprises a  
3 coin.

1 Claim 14. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~  
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 12 wherein the use period associated with a data token  
3 ~~(7, 56, 67)~~ is indicated in the data token.

1 Claim 15. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~  
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 12 wherein the software controller ~~(6a, 52a, 62a)~~ is  
3 adapted for supplying one of the current data token ~~(7, 56, 67)~~ and the  
4 exchange token automatically to the licence management server ~~(2, 51,~~  
5 ~~61)~~ to extend the licence for the software product ~~(4, 55, 65)~~.

1 Claim 16. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 12  
2 wherein:  
3 an exchange period is associated with each data token ~~(56)~~; and  
4 the system is adapted such that a new data token, to replace a  
5 current data token ~~(56)~~, can be obtained by the software controller  
6 ~~(52a)~~ only during the exchange period associated with that current data  
7 token.

1 Claim 17. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~claim 6 or~~  
2 claim 16 wherein the exchange period associated with a data token ~~(7,~~  
3 ~~56, 67)~~ is indicated in the data token.

1 Claim 18. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~  
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 12 wherein:  
3 a said data token ~~(67)~~ represents a licence to use a plurality of  
4 software products ~~(65)~~; and  
5 the software controller ~~(62a)~~ is adapted for storing product  
6 data, indicative of said plurality of software products, at a back-up

7 storage location ~~(58)~~, and allowing use of each of the software  
8 products ~~(65)~~ substantially only during the use period associated with  
9 the current data token ~~(67)~~ supplied by the licence management server  
10 ~~(61)~~.

1 Claim 19. (original) A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the  
2 product data comprises, for each software product, data representing an  
3 individual licence (LSP) for that software product.

1 Claim 20. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 18 ~~or~~  
2 ~~claim 19~~ wherein the product data comprises the software products ~~(65)~~.

1 Claim 21. (currently amended) A software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~  
2 for use in a software licence management system ~~(1, 60)~~ in which a  
3 licence to use a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ is represented by a data  
4 token ~~(7, 67)~~, the system ~~(1, 60)~~ having a licence management server  
5 ~~(2, 61)~~ for communicating with the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ via a  
6 data communications network ~~(5, 63)~~, wherein the software controller  
7 ~~(6a, 62a)~~ comprises control logic for controlling use of a software  
8 product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a user device ~~(3, 64)~~, the control logic being  
9 adapted for:  
10 allowing said use of the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ substantially  
11 only during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~  
12 supplied to the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ by the licence management  
13 server ~~(2, 61)~~;  
14 enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the  
15 current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the licence management server  
16 ~~(2, 61)~~, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data  
17 token to another said software controller ~~(6b, 62b)~~; and  
18 supplying one of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and the exchange  
19 token via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~  
20 to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token  
21 (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use  
22 period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the  
23 licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an  
24 exchange token from another said software controller.

1           Claim 22. (currently amended) A licence management server ~~(2,~~  
2 ~~61)~~ for use with a software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ as claimed in claim 21  
3 in a software licence management system ~~(1, 60)~~ in which a licence to  
4 use a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ is represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~,  
5 the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ comprising control logic adapted  
6 for:

7           communicating with the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ via a data  
8 communications network ~~(5, 63)~~;

9           supplying via the network to the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ a  
10 new data token, to replace the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and having a  
11 new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current data  
12 token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data token,  
13 received from the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~; and

14           detecting if a said token received from the software controller  
15 for exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence  
16 management server ~~(2, 61)~~.

1           Claim 23. (currently amended) A software controller ~~(52a)~~ for  
2 use in a software licence management system ~~(50)~~ in which a licence to  
3 use a software product ~~(55)~~ is represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the  
4 system ~~(50)~~ having a licence management server ~~(51)~~ for communicating  
5 with the software controller ~~(52a)~~ via a data communications network  
6 ~~(54)~~, wherein the software controller ~~(52a)~~ comprises control logic for  
7 controlling use of a software product ~~(55)~~ at a user device ~~(53)~~, the  
8 control logic being adapted for:

9           allowing said use of the software product ~~(55)~~ substantially only  
10 during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(56)~~ supplied  
11 to the software controller ~~(52a)~~ by the licence management server ~~(51)~~;

12           receiving an exchange token ~~(57)~~ associated with said licence;  
13 and

14           supplying one of the current data token ~~(56)~~ and the exchange  
15 token ~~(57)~~ via the network ~~(54)~~ to the licence management server ~~(51)~~  
16 to be exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the  
17 software product ~~(55)~~ beyond the use period associated with a current  
18 data token ~~(56)~~ supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a

19 said exchange token ~~(57)~~ is received by the software controller ~~(52a)~~  
20 in the absence of a current data token ~~(56)~~.

1 Claim 24. (currently amended) A licence management server ~~(51)~~  
2 for use with a software controller ~~(52a)~~ as claimed in claim 23 in a  
3 software licence management system ~~(50)~~ in which a licence to use a  
4 software product ~~(55)~~ is represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the licence  
5 management server ~~(51)~~ comprising control logic adapted for:  
6 communicating with the software controller ~~(52a)~~ via a data  
7 communications network ~~(54)~~;  
8 storing the use period for each data token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the  
9 software controller ~~(52a)~~ under the licence; and  
10 supplying via the network ~~(54)~~ to the software controller ~~(52a)~~ a  
11 new data token in exchange for a current data token ~~(56)~~, or said  
12 exchange token ~~(57)~~, received from the software controller, the new  
13 data token having a new use period which does not overlap the use  
14 period of a data token previously-supplied under the licence.

1 Claim 25. (currently amended) A computer program for controlling  
2 use of a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a user device ~~(3, 64)~~ in  
3 accordance with a licence represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~, the user  
4 device ~~(3, 64)~~ being connectable to a licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~  
5 via a data communications network ~~(5, 63)~~, the computer program  
6 comprising program code means adapted to:

7 allow use of the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ at the user device ~~(3,~~  
8 ~~64)~~ substantially only during a use period associated with a current  
9 data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied to the user device by the licence  
10 management server ~~(2, 61)~~;

11 enable user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current  
12 data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~,  
13 whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to  
14 another user device; and

15 supply one of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and the exchange  
16 token via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~  
17 to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token  
18 (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use  
19 period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the

20 licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an  
21 exchange token from another user device.

1        Claim 26. (currently amended) A computer program for use in a  
2 licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ of a software licence management  
3 system ~~(1, 60)~~ in which a licence to use a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ is  
4 represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~, the system ~~(1, 60)~~ including a  
5 software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ as claimed in claim 21 and the licence  
6 management server ~~(2, 61)~~ being adapted for communicating with the  
7 software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ via a data communications network ~~(5,~~  
8 ~~63)~~, wherein the computer program comprises program code means adapted  
9 to cause the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ to:  
10        supply via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the software controller ~~(6a,~~  
11 ~~62a)~~ a new data token, to replace the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and  
12 having a new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current  
13 data token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data  
14 token, received by the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ from the  
15 software controller; and  
16        detect if a said token received from the software controller for  
17 exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence  
18 management server ~~(2, 61)~~.

1        Claim 27. (currently amended) A computer program for controlling  
2 use of a software product ~~(55)~~ at a user device ~~(53)~~ in accordance with  
3 a licence represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the user device ~~(53)~~ being  
4 connectable to a licence management server ~~(51)~~ via a data  
5 communications network ~~(54)~~, the computer program comprising program  
6 code means adapted to:  
7        allow use of the software product ~~(55)~~ at the user device ~~(53)~~  
8 substantially only during a use period associated with a current data  
9 token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the user device by the licence management server  
10 ~~(51)~~;  
11        receive an exchange token ~~(57)~~ associated with said licence; and  
12        supply one of the current data token ~~(56)~~ and the exchange token  
13 ~~(57)~~ via the network ~~(54)~~ to the licence management server ~~(51)~~ to be  
14 exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the  
15 software product beyond the use period associated with a current data



16 token ~~(56)~~ supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said  
17 exchange token ~~(57)~~ is received by the user device ~~(53)~~ in the absence  
18 of a current data token ~~(56)~~.

1 Claim 28. (currently amended) A computer program for use in a  
2 licence management server ~~(51)~~ of a software licence management system  
3 ~~(50)~~ in which a licence to use a software product ~~(55)~~ is represented  
4 by a data token ~~(56)~~, the system ~~(50)~~ including a software controller  
5 ~~(52a)~~ as claimed in claim 23 and the licence management server ~~(51)~~  
6 being adapted for communicating with the software controller ~~(52a)~~ via  
7 a data communications network ~~(54)~~, wherein the computer program  
8 comprises program code means adapted to cause the licence management  
9 server ~~(51)~~ to:

10 store the use period for each data token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the  
11 software controller ~~(52a)~~ under the licence; and

12 supply via the network ~~(54)~~ to the software controller ~~(52a)~~ a  
13 new data token in exchange for a current data token ~~(56)~~, or said  
14 exchange token ~~(57)~~, received by the licence management server ~~(51)~~  
15 from the software controller, the new data token having a new use  
16 period which does not overlap the use period of a data token  
17 previously-supplied under the licence.

1 Claim 29. (currently amended) A method for controlling use of a  
2 software product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a user device ~~(3, 64)~~ in accordance with a  
3 licence represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~, the user device ~~(3, 64)~~  
4 being connectable to a licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ via a data  
5 communications network ~~(5, 63)~~, wherein the method comprises, at the  
6 user device ~~(3, 64)~~:

7 allowing use of the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ substantially only  
8 during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~  
9 supplied to the user device by the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~;

10 enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the  
11 current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the licence management server  
12 ~~(2, 61)~~, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data  
13 token to another user device; and

14 supplying one of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and the exchange  
15 token via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~

16 to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token  
17 (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use  
18 period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the  
19 licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an  
20 exchange token from another user device.

1 Claim 30. (currently amended) A method for operation of a  
2 licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ of a software licence management  
3 system ~~(1, 60)~~, in which system use of a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a  
4 user device ~~(3, 64)~~ is controlled by a method as claimed in claim 29,  
5 the method for operation of the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~  
6 comprising:

7 supplying via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the user device ~~(3, 64)~~ a  
8 new data token, to replace the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and having a  
9 new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current data  
10 token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data token,  
11 received from the user device ~~(3, 64)~~; and

12 detecting if a said token received from the user device ~~(3, 64)~~  
13 for exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence  
14 management server ~~(2, 61)~~.

1 Claim 31. (currently amended) A method for controlling use of a  
2 software product ~~(55)~~ at a user device ~~(53)~~ in accordance with a  
3 licence represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the user device ~~(53)~~ being  
4 connectable to a licence management server ~~(51)~~ via a data  
5 communications network ~~(54)~~, wherein the method comprises, at the user  
6 device ~~(53)~~:

7 allowing use of the software product ~~(55)~~ substantially only  
8 during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(56)~~ supplied  
9 to the user device by the licence management server ~~(51)~~; and

10 supplying one of the current data token ~~(56)~~ and an exchange  
11 token ~~(57)~~, associated with said licence, via the network ~~(54)~~ to the  
12 licence management server ~~(51)~~ to be exchanged for a new data token (a)  
13 to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period  
14 associated with a current data token ~~(56)~~ supplied by the licence  
15 management server ~~(51)~~ and (b) if a said exchange token ~~(57)~~ is

16 received by the user device ~~(53)~~ in the absence of a current data token  
17 ~~(56)~~.

1       Claim 32. (currently amended) A method for operation of a  
2 licence management server ~~(51)~~ of a software licence management system  
3 ~~(50)~~, in which system use of a software product ~~(55)~~ at a user device  
4 ~~(53)~~ is controlled by a method as claimed in claim 31, the method for  
5 operation of the licence management server ~~(51)~~ comprising:  
6       storing the use period for each data token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the  
7 user device ~~(53)~~ under the licence; and  
8       supplying via the network ~~(54)~~ to the user device ~~(53)~~ a new data  
9 token in exchange for a current data token ~~(56)~~, or said exchange token  
10 ~~(57)~~, received from the user device ~~(53)~~, the new data token having a  
11 new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data token  
12 previously-supplied under the licence.

1       Claim 33. (currently amended) A computer program product stored  
2 on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program means  
3 for causing a computer to perform the computer program according to ~~any~~  
4 ~~one of the claims~~ claim 25 ~~to 28~~.